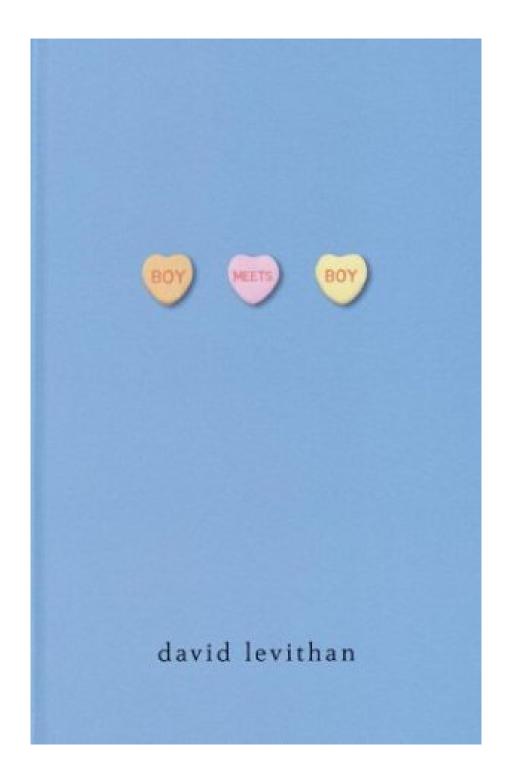


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Amazon.com Review

In this delightful young adult novel for readers 12 and up, high school sophomore Paul says, "There isn't really a gay scene or a straight scene in our town. They got all mixed up a while back, which I think is for the best." And, as he observes at the end of the story, "It's a wonderful world." Paul has both gay and straight friends, and they all hang out together at terrific bookstores and concerts, and advise one another on the sometimes troubled progress of their various romances. Paul is smitten with Noah, and they are beginning a serious relationship when Kyle, Paul's ex, complicates things by deciding that all is forgiven. Joni is going out with Chuck, who dominates her, much to her friends' disapproval. Tony's conservative parents refuse to acknowledge that he is gay, so the others must bone up on Bible verses all week so they can pretend Saturday night is a study group. And then there's Infinite Darlene, football quarterback and Homecoming Queen, who deserves a whole romance novel of her own. Life in their town is gloriously accepting of differences and only occasionally verges on magic realism, in this first novel in which same sex preference is not the problem. --Patty Campbell

From Publishers Weekly

Levithan's groundbreaking novel—set in an idealized high school where kids are free to express themselves without repercussions or embarrassment—whisks listeners into a unique teen scene via the work of this cast of young actors. Though Robideau sometimes sounds melodramatic, and the brief characterization of "young Paul" in flashback is grating, these performers eventually gel into an effortless give-and-take rhythm. As Paul explores his feelings for new crush Noah, listeners meet a crew of memorable characters both gay and straight, wild and wallflower that include the football team's drag queen quarterback (played to comic effect by Joey Panek). Suffused with humor and heart, this recording is bound to get listeners thinking about what it means to just be yourself and truly embrace tolerance. In a bonus track, three of the actors and artistic director Daniel Bostick compare their own high school experience to the one in the book. Ages 12-up. (May) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From School Library Journal

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In this school, the gay kids and the straight kids all get along just fine; the quarterback is a cross-dresser; and the cheerleaders ride Harleys--yet the road to true love is still a strange and winding path, as Paul discovers when he meets the boy of his dreams.

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Quirky and Beautiful

By Justin D

When I bought this book I didn't read the synopsis, only knew that it was recommended by other people who have purchased the same books as me.

My first attempt to read this book came when I was deciding what my next read would be. Looking at the synopsis, I questioned why I bought this book. Motorcycle-riding cheerleaders, drag queen football players. It didn't sound like a story I'd like. So I passed on it.

Several months later, my second attempt to read the book took. I didn't read the synopsis, I just went straight to chapter one and started reading. That's when I realized this was that motorcycle cheerleader book. I kept on reading... I met Paul, Kyle, Tony, Joni, Zeke, Ted, Chuck, Infinite Darlene and Noah. I didn't know how to place my bet. I was worried about Tony. And when I finished the last page of the book, I wanted more.

4.5

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Charming Romantic Comedy

By Miss Riki

In this charming romantic comedy, the typical high school setting is turned upside down with cheerleaders who ride Harleys and a transgendered homecoming queen named Infinite Darlene who used to be just Daryl. When Paul meets Noah, he's sure that he's the perfect guy for him, but things go awry and Paul must fight to win back Noah's affections. With the whole school betting against him, his good friend Tony caught up with his ultra-religious parents, and his best friend Joni consumed by her new relationship, Paul is on his own to find a way to set everything right again.

When I first began reading this book, my immediate reaction was one of disbelief. I mean, where on Earth does this perfect high school exist where everyone understands and nobody is shamed for their sexuality? As I read more, though, I began to wonder why not? Why can't we live in a time where the homecoming queen is transgendered and the gay-straight alliance is the place to be for both the gay and the straight? As I became involved with these characters I began dreaming of a time and place where the setting of this novel might be reality and the more I thought about it, the more I wondered why not now.

What stood out to me the most in this book, besides the wonderful, accepting world these characters live in,

was the beautiful relationships between them. I loved Paul's friends! It was wonderful to see him coming to the aid of Tony and being a true friend when he really needed it, and even though Joni goes off the rails a bit, I identified with Paul's struggle to accept the loss of his very best friend. I would have liked to have seen even more of Infinite Darlene, who absolutely stole the show in every scene she was in.

The romance between Paul and Noah is both real and perfect in every way. They fall in love organically in that absolute teenage way where nothing matters but the person you're infatuated with, and when drama threatens to tear them apart they take a step back to re-evaluate the meaning of absolutes. I absolutely adored the way they traded notes between every class and the gentle way that Paul goes about winning back Noah's affections. Every grand gesture reminded me of a 1980s John Hughes film and left me grinning from ear-to-ear.

This book is about love and friendship and the lengths we all go to in order to secure those things in our lives. It's also a book about acceptance that reminded me that although we're not quite there yet, we're not all that far from where we need to be.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

A great lgbt novel, but it feels like a debut for Levithan (his more recent books are perfection) By PWDecker

The beginning didn't feel like a David Levithan novel. His books always have been so grounded and real to me. This started out kind of ridiculous and outrageous. Many of the characters were larger than life. The city it takes place in also seemed nonrealistic. The high school contains a cheerleader biker gang, a high school cover band, and a few drag queens. All of the high school characters seem very sure of themselves. It felt like adult situations just transplanted into a high school and even earlier with stories that go as far back as elementary school. But I think Levithan did this all purposefully.

About 80% into the book I finally understood why Levithan created a world like this. With the protagonist "having it easy" it creates a unique lens to look at other gay youth in different situations. The chapter entitled "Tony" had me on the verge of tears.

This was David Levithan's first published book and I think you can tell. Many of his signatures are just beginning to emerge. The wit and charm of his writing are there. Unique, quirky, and random still describes his writing, but his writing has grown in his more recent books.

I did enjoy this book and I give it a 4/5. But, if you are looking for a modern gay story you should read "Two Boys Kissing". If you are looking for depth and conversations of sexuality, gender, and individuality you should read "Every Day". I will continue to consume as much of David Levithan's writing as I can.

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